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The New Constellation.

Baltimore, its people, and Gen. Felix
Agnus are all heartily to be congratulated
on the brightness and radiance of
that new constellation in the journalistic
heavens, The American Star. Volume 1,
No. 1, which made its appearance on
Monday afternoon, is a newspaper of
which any city and any editor might be
proud. It would seem to have been born
a fortunate infant; prosperity is written
all over it. It is a clean-cut, readable
newspaper; good to look at; attractive
without saying—it is ably edited. The
American Star adds a new and striking
force to American journalism. It was
called into existence to fill a need, and
as its leading editorial says, "to save Bal-
timore from yellow journalism, with all
the irresponsibility of alien ownership,"
a function both ambitious and praiseworthy.

The Washington Herald is young enough
itself not to have forgotten the value
of sympathetic and genuine welcome, and
sincerely and gladly it extends the cordial
hand of comradeship to the new newspaper,
remembering, with Henry Vaughan,
that—

"Stars are of mighty use; the night
Is dark and long;
The road is foul; and where one goes right,
Six may go wrong.
One twinkling ray
Shut's out a thousand
And clear much way,
My guide and crown."
Long may The American Star twinkle!

We still have sufficient faith in the
courts to entertain a robust idea that T.
Jenkins Hains will not pull off any
more personally conducted shooting
scrapes soon.

Good English.

There has recently been some lamenta-
tion over the fact that English "as she
is spoken" is deteriorating and becoming
corrupted by the arbitrary additions and
innovations which constantly are being
made. There is, undoubtedly, some truth
in the statement that, in the haste and
bustle of these modern days, we pay less
attention to correct speech than our
fathers did; but it is true, also, that
with the change—even if it be for the
worse, which remains to be proved—in
the forms of speech there has come a
change, too, in quickness of comprehen-
sion.

As to why the change has come about,
many reasons might be assigned, for the
causes are various. Undoubtedly the
popularity of such daily essays as those
of "Mr. Dooley," and Mr. George Ade, in
his "Fables in Slang," have helped; and
so, too, have such men as Mr. Roosevelt,
who, having no real authority in letters,
yet chose to use his Executive power to
change the form of spelling, arbitrarily
and ostensibly in the cause of simplicity.

The President did not succeed, it may
be remembered, in his attempt, because
Congress came to the rescue and re-
sented his order; not that it mattered
much, we imagine, because changes in
English have never come about arbitrar-
ily. The truth is that the English
language is in a state of flux; it never
was a rigid, fixed quantity, bound down
or cramped by rules, and it never will
be. That is one reason why English has
come nearer to being the universal lan-
guage, spoken in every clime and by va-
rious peoples, than any other. Because
it is flexible it is adaptable, and borrow-
ings here and there do not hamper it,
they enrich it.

But it is true that while English to-
day is a more useful language than it
was, say, one hundred years ago, good,
pure English is mighty hard to find, and
we agree with the editor of Van Norden-
den's Magazine when he says:

"American boys and girls and American youth,
including the college variety, do not speak the
English language. They talk 'Bovary' argot,' pri-
vate school and college slang, Manhattanese with-
out an R, flattened Philadelphia, and modish
Missourian, Arkian, and Iowese. They not
only talk these abominations, but they write them.
They cannot read aloud a page of simple prose
without being embarrassed by a cultivated ear,
and when one of them comes into a book or a
mailed's eye he has to learn for the first time
in his life how to add and subtract, multiply, and
divide."

Yet the very innovations which, used
to excess, corrupt or English speech

supply the new words which, when they
are happy in their significance, come into
general use, and so are legalized, as it
were. What is happening to English
must happen to any living language,
coined to express the needs of communi-
cation of millions. With each new in-
vention, each advance in science, new
words have to be coined; the language
has to readjust itself constantly to fit
the new conditions which confront it
every day, and the fact that the lan-
guage can be treated thus is only an-
other proof of its wonderful vitality and
its fitness for a world language.

Who, then, is to say whether English
is good or bad? There are, of course,
rules of the game that must be observed
if the speaker would not be marked down
as a boor. People who will not heed the
canons of grammar, and who modify or
avoid syntax, are either grossly careless
or crassly ignorant. There are some
who will seek to justify, for instance, the
split infinitive, when, as a matter of fact,
the only justification possible is that, for
an ignorant man, it is easier to write
bad than good English.

The prime test, after all, is established
usage, the usage of educated and thought-
ful men; not men of a past age, whose
canons could not possibly take account
of the needs of our day, but the men of
to-day, who recognize that the English
language is not a fetish, but a mere tool
to be used in transmitting the thought
of man.

"To thus see Col. Watterston," says
Mr. Alfred Henry Lewis, in the New
York American. This swells the ranks
of the Initiative Splitters' Union well-nigh
to the bursting point.

Retired with Honors.

It is fitting that the celebration at Lake
Mohonk last night to mark the retire-
ment of Rear Admiral Evans should have
been so successful. The interest of the na-
tion was aroused in the ceremony which
called attention once more to the eminent
services of a man—"Fighting Bob Evans"
—who in his person and in his career has
so worthily followed in the footsteps of
his predecessors and maintained the high
traditions of a naval service whose glory
is second to none in the world.

Robley Dunglison Evans, sixty-two
years old, stands to-day, in spite of his
honorable retirement from active service,
representative of the American spirit;
and as we to-day look back, with some-
thing like reverence for the glory they
won, on those other American sailors,
John Paul Jones, Esch Hopkins, Decatur,
Hull, Lawrence, Farragut, and the rest,
we can mark how honorably and bravely
the line has been continued through
him. Born in the South, he remained
loyal during the civil war, and beginning
as an ensign he served his country so well
that the scars of the wounds he got at
the storming of Fort Fisher are with him
still. In the war with Spain, as a cap-
tain, he rendered efficient service, and
made good his claim to that title given
to him years ago by his sailors. "Fighting
Bob."

During his long career of active service,
Admiral Evans has done much, too, for
the cause of peace, and, throughout, his
career is one on which he must be able
to look back with fine satisfaction, not
only at the opportunities that have come
to him to serve his country bravely and
ably, but at the way he was able to
use the chances that came to him. The
loss of his service to the nation is not a
light one, but the infirmities of age, ag-
gravated by the accidents of a strenuous
life, make his retirement necessary.

The meeting last night, with the ex-
pressions of love and sympathy that came
to him, must assure him he has won an
honored place in the hearts of his coun-
trymen, and that his name is added to
that imperishable list of sea-fighters who
through every peril held the Stars and
Stripes aloft.

"Men are made to do things," says the
Deseret News. Men of the Tom Lawson
stamp, however, appear to believe they
were made to do their fellow-men.

Selling Books.

It would appear from a circular sent
out by Mr. Frank H. Dodd, president of
the American Publishers' Association,
that the recent decision of the New York
Appellate Court in the litigation between
the department stores and the publishers
was not so severely adverse to the pub-
lishers as was at first thought. Mr.
Dodd declares that the decision was
rather favorable to the publishers than
the reverse, as, while it gave the depart-
ment stores permission to sell at any
price they chose any books they could
get hold of, it denied the right of the
department stores to claim damages from
the publishers who refused to sell them
copyrighted books.

Undoubtedly there was much sympathy
with the cause of the department store
people, who, in some mysterious way,
managed to get hold of editions of new
and popular novels, sold usually at the
book stores for \$1.50, and which the de-
partment stores sold for much less. But,
too, there is also a wide sympathy with
the cause of the bookellers, and there
are many book lovers who would regret
deeply the passing of those haunts of
books, some of them new, but the best
ones with dingy and broken backs and
not a little dust-covered. The department
stores have no use for these. In his cir-
cular Mr. Dodd says:

"The object which the publishers have all along
had in view is not to increase their own prices or
profits, but to guarantee dealers in books a fair
profit, such as will enable them to maintain them-
selves at present prices. The publishers have tried
to do this by the use of the book store, but they
not only to conserve the book store, but to force
the business of department stores in the better class
of literature. Should they be unsuccessful, the in-
evitable outcome will be a lessened output of the
most serious and valuable books. The difficulty
of selling these has already increased to a serious
extent. The progressive publisher will, of course,
adapt himself to the market, and should it become
necessary for him to publish nothing but light
literature, he can do so. But if the business had
higher ideals than this, many of those who have
given their lives to it would be engaged in other
and more remunerative callings."

One thought underlies the whole busi-
ness of book publishing and book selling
—in a measure the same question has
come up and is still awaiting settlement
in the field of dramatic art—and that is
that book dealing is not purely a com-
mercial business, not simply a money-
making undertaking—at least, not at its

best and highest estate. In this aspect
the plain bookseller has a great advan-
tage, at least artistically, over the de-
partment store. The big money-making
trading concerns have to deal in brand
new books, the gaudier the cover the bet-
ter, and they have to sell them quick.
The bookseller who loves his business and
understands it loves his wares too; se-
lects them with tender care, and some-
times when he makes a sale of a rare
edition regards it as a loss of a personal
friend.

One result, of course, of the department
store invasion of the book-selling field
has been a wider circulation of books;
and though at first this meant only a
wider circulation of cheap novels and
books that amounted to little, the pub-
lishers have so far kept abreast of the
times that they issue now cheap and well-
printed editions of the classics, which the
department stores handle. And, after all,
perhaps that system which results in
putting the most books into the hands of
the people will prove to be productive of
the greatest good.

"The form of the fish-hook hasn't
changed in 2,000 years," says the Denver
Post. And we suppose the biggest fish
got away as invariably 2,000 years ago as
they do to-day.

The man who operates an automobile is
said to be immune from attacks of mos-
quitoes. However, that still leaves the
mosquitoes ample scope forage to insure
them against starvation.

It is as hard, apparently, to keep a good
man down as it is to keep a good air-
ship up.

In his recent speech at Litchfield,
Speaker Cannon took his text from the
Bible, and quoted copiously therefrom.
Still, all sorts of people quote the Scrip-
tures on occasions. Even Satan has found
it handy at times.

It has been discovered that rats suffer
frequently from pathogenic haemogre-
gariae hepatocystic peritonitis. No just
know it would be expensive for a human
being to become afflicted with that.

"Miss Annie Peck, of Providence, has
climbed to the summit of Mount Huas-
caran," says the New York Mail. This
is especially interesting to the public
at large, perhaps, but it certainly is
time to call out the geography class
again.

Mr. Bryan is a good friend of the
paraphraser. He commenced his speech
of acceptance with these startling words:
"I cannot accept the nomination which
you officially tender." Then, of course,
he added "without, &c."

A generous welcome, congratulations,
and the right hand of good fellowship,
palm up, to the Baltimore American
Star! May its light so shine before men
that they may see its good works and
glory! Its founder, Gen. Felix Agnus!
Already, indeed, it may justly be rated a
Star of the first magnitude.

An Alton (Ill.) man claims to have a
pet coon that drinks fifteen bottles of
beer every day. If "coons" generally are
provided with fifteen bottles of beer every
day in Illinois, that State is fated to be
popular with them, notwithstanding re-
cent happenings there.

"Suppose one of those shraut gowls
should shrink," suggests the Indianapolis
News. Come, come, contemporary! "Suf-
ficient unto the day is the evil thereof."

"Canada warmed up to Vice President
Fairbanks right along," says the Mon-
teal Star. Of course; neither Canada
nor Mr. Fairbanks is probably as cold as
some of the jokesmiths have pictured
them.

A man has invented a writing machine
with a capacity of 40,000 words per hour.
We fear the Presidential messages of the
future are to be even more so than ever
before.

"Marie Corelli is to write a novel
against the drink habit," says a contem-
porary. It is hard to tell which is worse:
the habit of drinking or the habit of
reading Marie Corelli's novels.

A Texas river rose so rapidly one night
not long ago that 20,000 head of cattle
were drowned before morning. In the
matter of stock watering, it is doubtful
if even Mr. Harriman could do a neater
job.

"The trials of the night riders in this
State generally result in hung juries,"
says the Louisville Times. Hung juries
do not result in the hanging of a few night
riders.

"We should like very much to see can-
didate Taft do the 'barn dance,'" says
the Memphis Commercial-Appeal, ma-
liciously. We can understand why the
Commercial-Appeal should be Democratic,
but we can't see why it should also be
mean.

Somehow, that Presidential candidate
who is in jail doesn't appear to be get-
ting the free advertising his unique status
would seem to call for.

One reason why the campaign is so
quiet up to date is because money isn't
talking this time in the same tone of
voice it used to.

"A New York woman wants a divorce
because her husband's stenographer
broke down for him at the office," says
the Milwaukee Sentinel. We feel sure
she would have been madder still, how-
ever, had the stenographer made a prac-
tice of rushing the growler for him.

There may be no significance attaching
to it, but Ralskill wasn't heard from once
while Senator Tillman was in Morocco.

A Proper Commission.

From the New York Globe.

The suggestions to be made by the
commission concerning both the means
available at present for supplying de-
ficiencies in agricultural life, and
concerning organized permanent inves-
tigation and action will be awaited with
little enthusiasm. From them the Presi-
dent will doubtless be able to make rec-
ommendations that will engage the ear-
nest attention of Congress. It would have
been regrettable had his administration
ended without the material advancement
of this propaganda for the social better-
ment of agricultural life, and, advanced
under such auspices as are represented in
his commission, we may expect to see it
make rapid strides.

A Local Issue.

From the Philadelphia Record.

In the South the question is treated
wholly as a local question, its object be-
ing to close the saloons, in which much
bad whiskey is sold to the negroes. The
Democrats of the South do not permit
this local question to enter into national
politics.

A LITTLE NONSENSE.

GOOD HUNTING.

The festive claud
Of far New Zealand,
I'd like to chase.
I'd bait the wombat
Could I the combat
Conduct on "space."

To hunt the tiger
Along the Niger.
Or leopard's pot,
I'd be delighted
If copyrighted
Were every shot.

Probably Not.

"Baseball," maintained the dogmatic
citizen, "is very ancient. Baseball games
were probably going on at the time of the
flood."

"Do you 'pose they gave him checks?"
inquired the facetious citizen, with irritat-
ing levity.

A Pessimistic View.

"I admit that the hero in the melodrama
always gets the girl in the fourth act, but
there they drop the final curtain."

"And that's the place to drop it. In an-
other act he might wish he hadn't."

A Wise Judge.

"What's the charge against this wom-
an's husband?"

"Psychic cruelty," answered the plain-
tiff's lawyer.

"Case dismissed. Come into this court
again with such a case and I'll fine you
twenty-five materialistic pieces of money
commonly called dollars."

Those Little Finds.

When I find a million dollars
That I didn't know I had
In some vest,
Why, it consequently follows
That I'm very, very glad.
That's no jest.

Will This Be So?

"Do women vote now?" inquired the
man who had been away for many years.
"No," replied a politician. "They have
the right to, but we can't get 'em to the
polls."

"My wife hates me to be alone in
the hot city."

"Well?"

"Yet all my friends are on the list of
men she has ordered me to keep away
from."

Work Expected.

"Couldst give me employment for the
rest of the summer?" inquired Yorick
Hamm.

"I couldst," answered Farmer Whiffle-
tree. "But you want remember that
life on a farm ain't no barnyard drama."

RURAL DEVELOPMENT.

The President's Plan Opens Great Possibilities.

From the Chicago Record-Herald.

Nothing but good can result from the
plan conceived by the President. There
are certainly great possibilities of co-
operation in rural communities—indus-
trial, social, spiritual. The rural mail de-
livery, the telephone, the increase of popu-
lation, the scientific study of agriculture,
the efforts of the Federal and State gov-
ernments in aid of the farmer, even the
mechanical musical instruments that have
come into vogue in recent years, have
undoubtedly done much for the farmer
and his family. Prof. Bailey, whom the
President has made the head of his com-
mission, has written hopefully on the fu-
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President has made the head of his com-
mission, has written hopefully on the fu-
ture of the farm and the growing recog-
nition on the part of college students of
the wholesomeness and independence and
reasonableness of the life of the farmer.

Nothing but good can result from the
plan conceived by the President. There
are certainly great possibilities of co-
operation in rural communities—indus-
trial, social, spiritual. The rural mail de-
livery, the telephone, the increase of popu-
lation, the scientific study of agriculture,
the efforts of the Federal and State gov-
ernments in aid of the farmer, even the
mechanical musical instruments that have
come into vogue in recent years, have
undoubtedly done much for the farmer
and his family. Prof. Bailey, whom the
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ture of the farm and the growing recog-
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